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Net Brown mty

23 September 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: EA DCI
FROM: Special Assistant

SUBJECT: DRSP

*concur. The process is too far
along to reverse, especially
before Nov. 4. Your close
attention, though, will help
keep DOD +
NRO.*

1. In the enclosed, [] expressed his grave concerns on the DRSP. While you concurred in its thrust, you expressed concern on the countering procedure, i.e., "question is how to attack."

2. RM has similar concerns, but more so on the long-range ones--the possible erosion of DCI authorities and the concept of centralized management of the expensive NRO resources.

3. At this point in time, however, a concern equal to how to attack must be one of when to attack.

On the "how" side. With your broader IC authority as spelled out in E.O. 12036 (as opposed to the more limited one in the NRP charter), there is a clear responsibility to ensure economy of national systems. However, we have already lost a major step with the authorization provided in PD 37 for the operation of a separate Military Space Program (MSP). The DRSP thus evolves as a subset of the MSP. In addition, DRSP functions have, de facto, already existed as military mods or augmentations to the NRP competed. Whether a de jure DRSP degrades the NRP management effectiveness remains to be seen and watched. Certainly your concurrence authority (as also spelled out in the DRSP charter) for any mods or augmentations helps ensure that the NRP per se is not degraded.

On the "when" side. Any hierarchial effort beyond the SecDef/NRO/DCI interface before 4 November will result in a premature and wasted play. No one will be listening. Going to GQ for the next couple of months as [] proposes serves no useful purpose without some concrete arguments. I would propose the following:

NRO review(s)
completed.

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Pre 4 November

1. Continue to express directly (and indirectly to SecDef and D/NRO through DDS&T, RM and CT) your serious reservations with the DRSP;

2. Consult with [] on his assessment and how he would proceed to avoid a degradation of NRO responsibility;

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3. Hold strong on the DDS transfer so as not to project the slightest perception of acquiescence.

Post 4 November

4. If a new DCI is to be, ensure that he is read in fully on possible ramifications of any DRSP in conflict with the NRP;

5. Have RM and CT review E.O. 12036 to determine how it can be strengthened not only vis a vis PD 37 and DRSP but also any IC matters--we may wish to do the same with the Agency;

6. Push with SecDef for a semiannual brief to the DCI of DRSP efforts to ensure consistency with the NRP and to determine any management and fiscal inefficiencies which have degraded or will degrade the NRP;

7. Be prepared to force DRSP issues to a PRC(I) as necessary.

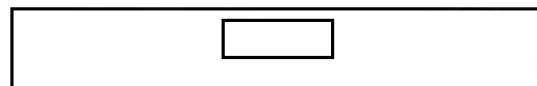
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Enclosure

Memorandum from D/PTO, dtd 18 Sep 80

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